

# **PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**January 9, 2009**

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## MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 8:35 am by Marilyn Wilkinson
2. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK
  - Gardner Grady – I would just like to introduce myself. I am interested in participating and seeing what this committee does.
  - Carl Higgins – I am with the Ramona Air Center and am happy to be here today to talk about the Ramona Air Center and what it can contribute to the Ramona Grasslands and partnering with parks and recreation.
3. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
  - Mike McCoy – The California Coastal Initiative will be holding meetings in San Diego at the Holiday Inn on the Bay on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. I will provide information to DPR to send it to anyone who is interested.
  - Doug Goad – The City of Encinitas has been asked to allow for the expansion of the Carlsbad marathon route and we are hoping that this is allowed and that you may be hearing about some trail connections that allow the expansion of this marathon in the near future.
  - Rod Groenewold – Vista started grading on their Vista sports park complex and it will include trail connections as well as a sports complex.
  - Marilyn Wilkinson – I will be unable to attend either the San Elijo Nature Center or Lakeside Ballfields openings and hope that some of you would attend as well.
4. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 14, 2008 MINUTES
  - Approval of November 14, 2008 Minutes
  - Mike McCoy – I was quoted in the minutes when talking about trails and saying to “. . .decrease defragmentation”, it should be “fragmentation” of trails.
  - Roger Utt – I was at the last meeting and realized that I was not on the attendee list.

MOTION TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 14, 1008 MINUTES WITH 2 CORRECTIONS  
– RICK LANDAVAZO, 2<sup>nd</sup> JOHN DEGENFELDER  
ALL IN FAVOR – 8-0-0
5. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Mary Niez
  - Distributed the department's November and December accomplishments information sheets.
  - We are going to be having two very big openings in January 2009. The Lakeside Baseball Park on Saturday, January 24, 2009 and the San Elijo Nature Center on Saturday, January 31, 2009. We hope that you will be able to attend one or both of these openings to see our great new facilities.

- Renée Bahl – We are very excited to inform you that Renee Hilton was named as the new Assistant Director for Parks and Recreation. She started with the department as an interim Chief for the Administrative Division and was appointed as Assistant Director in November 2008. We are happy to have her on board. You will get to meet her at the next meeting as she will be presenting.
- On February 11<sup>th</sup>, the County's State of the County address will be presented by Chairwoman Jacob. We will send you information on the time and venue.

6. PLDO & CSA FUND BALANCE REPORTS – Renée Bahl

- Distributed updated monthly PLDO and CSA reports.
- In December 2008 we were advised by the State that a bond freeze was being implemented and that we are to cease and desist any work on projects with funding from current bonds. We are currently working with the State to get extensions or holds for our project funds.

7. RAMONA AIR CENTER IMPROVEMENTS AT RAMONA GRASSLANDS – Trish Boaz

- We are working with the Ramona Air Center for improvements to the Ramona Grasslands adjacent to the Air Center.
- There is a current house that is planned for demolition and then there will be a ranger facility for people to be able to come to as well as remodel/revamp of the rodeo grounds.
- These improvements are going to be part of the overall resource management plan for the Ramona Grasslands area.
- We will be preparing an environmental evaluation and documentation for the area and will need to go to the BOS to accept the donation for the work, which we estimate is approximately \$300,000.
  - ♦ Marilyn Wilkinson – When we went to the site there really wasn't anything for the public to go out to and this would be the first step in getting people out to the area.
  - ♦ Carl Higgins – Trish and I have worked for a long time on this project and we are excited to be able to start on this project. We are neighbors to the grasslands, with our hangars at the edge of the grasslands on County property. There is a broad-based section of people in the community that are interested in helping out and donating and volunteering to this project.
- We have met with the Ramona Trails Association and the Ramona Planning Group Subcommittee and given them information about our ideas and project and will continue to work with the community throughout this process.
  - ♦ Mike McCoy – Is this land protected from development?
- There is a conservation easement over the entire property, so it is protected.

MOTION TO SUPPORT THE RAMONA GRASSLANDS AIRFIELD PROJECT – JOHN DEGENFELDER, 2<sup>ND</sup> DOUG GOAD

ALL IN FAVOR – 8-0-0

- Rob Hutsel – I would just like to say thank you to the Ramona Air Center and I applaud you for the work that you are doing and putting back into the community.

8. 2008 IN REVIEW; LOOKING FORWARD TO 2009 – Mary Niez and Trish Boaz

- Mary Niez – Distributed a handout on 2008 accomplishments and looking forward to 2009, and future projects. The handout included a summary of PAC member responsibilities.
- Rod Groenewold – I think that it is our responsibility as PAC members to bring opportunities forward to the county as well as advising on items.
- Distributed the 2009-13 Strategic Plan and Capital Improvement Projects Plan.
- Trish Boaz – Presented the DPR Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) report. As part of the General Management System, the County of San Diego manages a 5-Year Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan outlines the County's priorities for the next five years, and provides the information on what the County will do to address those priorities. The plan is updated annually by the County Strategic Planning Support Team and each department conducts an Environmental Scan and SWOT Analysis. PAC members provided input on the DPR SWOT for submittal to the Land Use and Environment Group (LUEG). The report will be submitted to the LUEG office for its review and approval.
- Mike McCoy – Because of the challenges the department faces as a general funded County department could we put on as a future agenda item about funding, including a discussion on financing and budgeting?
- Renée Bahl – Yes, since it looks like you are all interested in this subject we will put this on our list for a future agenda item.

#### 9. Adjournment at 9:45 am

#### ATTENDEES:

Mike McCoy, District 1  
 Marilyn Wilkinson, District 2  
 John Degenfelder, District 2  
 Doug Goad, District 3  
 Rob Hutsel, District 4  
 Roger Utt, District 4  
 Rick Landavazo, District 5  
 Rod Groenewold, District 5  
 Renée Bahl, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
 Mary Niez, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
 Sabrina Hicks, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
 Trish Boaz, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation